AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, which replace all previous versions and listings of the claims.

1. (currently amended) A method of operating a media production system, comprising:

sensing speed parameters of first and second reeled media;

tracking an unwinding parameter of the first reeled media;

positionally tracking a leading end position of the second reeled media; and

controlling splicing between the first and second reeled media based at least partially on the speed parameters, the unwinding parameter, and the leading end position;

controlling a motorized drive to adjust speed of the second reeled media; and

controlling the motorized drive to adjust tension of the second reeled media.

2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein sensing speed parameters comprises identifying surface speeds of the first and second reeled media.

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein tracking the unwinding parameter comprises positionally tracking a trailing end position of the first reeled media.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein tracking the unwinding parameter comprises sensing revolutions of unwinding the first reeled media.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein tracking the unwinding further comprises identifying a diameter of the first reeled media.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein positionally tracking the leading end position comprises sensing revolutions of rotating the second reeled media.

7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein positionally tracking the leading end position comprises sensing a positional marker at the leading end position.

8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein controlling spicing comprises triggering an adhesion operation prior to a trailing end position of the first reeled media and before the leading end position of the second reeled media.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein triggering the adhesion operation comprises:

contacting the first and second media at a desired fraction of a revolution prior to the leading end position; and

bonding the first and second media at a bond region adjacent the leading end position.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein controlling splicing further comprises triggering a cutting operation to cut the first reeled media after the bond region.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein controlling splicing comprises ~~controlling tension of at least one of the first and second reeled media~~ controlling the motorized drive to adjust the speed and controlling the motorized drive to adjust the tension of the second reeled media.

12. (currently amended) The method of ~~claim 11~~ claim 1, wherein controlling the motorized drive to adjust speed ~~and tension~~ comprises[[:]] accelerating a surface speed of the second reeled media toward a surface speed of the first reeled media; and controlling the motorized drive to adjust tension comprises ~~holding back the surface speed of the second reeled media relative to the surface speed of the first reeled media to provide a desired tension~~ applying a torque opposing a direction of rotation of the second reeled media.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim ~~11~~12, wherein accelerating is performed prior to a splice of the first and second reeled media and ~~holding back is performed after the splice~~ applying the torque opposing the direction of rotation is performed after the splice.

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) A system of operating a media production system, comprising:

means for sensing operational parameters of first and second reeled media; ~~and~~

means for controlling splicing of the first and second reeled media based on the operational parameters; and

means for transitioning from speed based control to tension based control of the second reeled media to facilitate transitioning and splicing between the first and second reeled media.

16. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the operational parameters comprise speed feedback of the first and second reeled media.

17. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the operational parameters comprise media tension feedback.

18. (original) The system of claim 15, wherein the operational parameters comprise media position feedback.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the media position feedback comprises unwinding condition of the first reeled media and a leading end position of the second reeled media.

20. (currently amended) The system of claim 15, comprising means for independently regulating media tension of ~~at least one of~~ the first and second reeled media.

21. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

speed sensors adapted to sense speed parameters of first and second reeled media;

an unwinding sensor adapted to track an unwinding parameter of the first reeled media;

a positional sensor adapted to track a leading end position of the second reeled media;

a transition drive controller adapted to transition a motorized media drive from speed control to tension control of the second reeled media; and

a media splicing controller adapted to control splicing between the first and second reeled media based at least partially on the speed parameters, the unwinding parameter, and the leading end position.

22. (original) The system of claim 21, comprising a media tension sensor adapted to obtain tension feedback from at least one of the first and second reeled media.

23. (original) The system of claim 22, comprising a tension controller adapted to regulate media tension based on the tension feedback.

24. (original) The system of claim 23, wherein the tension controller is adapted to provide a control signal to a static belt tensioning mechanism.

25. (original) The system of claim 23, wherein the tension controller is adapted to provide a control signal to a media drive belt.

26. (original) The system of claim 23, wherein the tension controller is adapted to provide a control signal to a tensioning mechanism for a rotatable media carrier.

27. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the unwinding parameter comprises a trailing end position of the first reeled media.

28. (original) The system of claim 21, wherein the media splicing controller comprises an adhesion trigger adapted to provide contact between the first and second media prior to a trailing end position of the first reeled media and at a desired fraction of a revolution prior to the leading end position of the second reeled media.

29. (original) The system of claim 25, wherein the adhesion trigger is adapted to provide stable contact between the first and second media leading into a bond region adjacent the leading end position.

30. (original) The system of claim 25, wherein the media splicing controller further comprises a cutting trigger adapted to engage a media cutter to cut the first reeled media after the leading end position.

31. (currently amended) A program for controlling a media production system, comprising:

a tangible machine readable medium; and

machine readable code disposed on machine readable medium and adapted to control splicing between first and second reeled media based at least partially on speed feedback from the first and second reeled media, unwinding feedback from the first reeled media, and positional feedback of a leading end of the second reeled media,

wherein the machine readable code is adapted to control speed of a motor driving the second reeled media at least prior to splicing and adapted to control torque of the motor driving the second reeled media at least subsequent to splicing.

32. (original) The program of claim 31, wherein the speed feedback comprises surface speeds of the first and second reeled media.

33. (original) The program of claim 31, wherein the unwinding feedback comprises a trailing end position of the first reeled media.

34. (original) The program of claim 31, wherein the machine readable code is adapted to trigger adhesion between the first and second reeled media adjacent the leading end of the second reeled media and to trigger subsequent cutting of the first reeled media.

35. (original) The program of claim 31, wherein the machine readable code is adapted to regulate tension of at least one of the first and second reeled media based at least partially on tension feedback.

36. (currently amended) A system, comprising:

a first reel structure adapted to support an unwinding media;

a second reel structure adapted to support a replacement media;

a media carrier disposed adjacent the first reel structure and adapted to transport the unwinding media;

a media drive disposed adjacent the second reel structure and adapted to drive the replacement media and to apply a force opposing rotation of the replacement media for a transition from the unwinding media to the replacement media; and

a splicing controller adapted to control splicing between the unwinding media and the replacement media based at least partially on speed feedback for the unwinding media and the replacement media, unwinding feedback for the unwinding media, and positional feedback of a leading end of the replacement media.

37. (original) The system of claim 36, comprising a tension controller adapted to regulate media tension based on operational feedback of the unwinding media.

38. (original) The system of claim 37, wherein the media carrier comprises a static belt tensioning mechanism adapted to contact the unwinding media, wherein the tension controller is adapted to provide a control signal for adjusting the static belt tensioning mechanism.

39. (original) The system of claim 37, wherein the media carrier comprises a plurality of rotatable media carriers offset from one another, at least one of the plurality of rotatable media carriers having a positional adjustment for tension in the unwinding media, wherein the tension controller is adapted to provide a control signal for the positional adjustment.

40. (original) The system of claim 37, wherein the tension controller is adapted to provide a control signal to the media drive.

41. (original) The system of claim 40, wherein the tension controller is adapted to engage the media drive to provide a hold back torque after splicing between the unwinding media and the replacement media.

42. (original) The system of claim 36, wherein the splicing controller comprises an adhesion trigger adapted to provide a control signal to a media contacting device for contacting the unwinding media and the replacement media leading into a bond region adjacent the leading end.

43. (original) The system of claim 36, wherein the splicing controller comprises a cutting trigger adapted to cut the unwinding media after bonding with the replacement media adjacent the leading end.

44. (currently amended) A method for reeled media production, comprising:

providing a splicing controller adapted to control splicing between an unwinding media and a replacement media based at least partially on speed feedback for the unwinding media and the replacement media, unwinding feedback for the unwinding media, and positional feedback of a leading end of the replacement media;

providing a transition drive controller adapted to control a media transition drive to accelerate the replacement media to a surface speed of the unwinding media and to generate a torque that opposes unwinding of the replacement media upon or after being spliced with the unwinding media; and

providing a tension controller adapted to regulate media tension based on operational feedback of at least one of the unwinding media and the replacement media.

45. (original) The method of claim 44, comprising providing a speed sensor for at least one of the unwinding media and the replacement media.

46. (original) The method of claim 44, comprising providing a revolutions sensor for at least one of the unwinding media and replacement media.

47. (original) The method of claim 44, comprising providing a positional sensor for a trailing end of the unwinding media.

48. (original) The method of claim 44, comprising providing a positional sensor for the trailing end of the replacement media.

49. (original) The method claim 44, comprising providing a tension sensor for the unwinding media.

50. (currently amended) The method of claim 44, comprising providing [[a]] the media transition drive adapted to drive the replacement media.

51. (original) The method of claim 50, wherein providing the tension controller comprises providing a drive tension controller adapted to provide a holdback force to the replacement media after splicing between the unwinding media and the replacement media.

52. (new) The method of claim 1, comprising transitioning from controlling the motorized drive to adjust speed of the second reeled media to controlling the motorized drive to adjust tension of the second reeled media.

53. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein sensing speed, tracking the unwinding parameter, and positionally tracking the leading end position comprise obtaining electronic feedback.

54. (new) The method of claim 1, comprising obtaining electronic feedback for controlling the motorized drive to adjust speed, or tension, or a combination thereof.

55. (new) The system of claim 15, wherein the operational parameters comprise electronic feedback including tension and speed of the first reeled media, or the second reeled media, or a combination thereof.